

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 and 37-52 are pending in the subject application. Claims 40, 42-45, 47, and 50 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e). Claims 46, 48, 49, 51, and 52 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Claims 1-12 and claims 37-39 are allowed. Claim 41 is objected to but otherwise allowable. Claims 13-35 have been withdrawn from prosecution and are canceled herein. Claim 41 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 39 and 40 have been amended.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. However, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 40, 42-45, 47, and 50 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Number 6,385,805 to Konishi ("Konishi" or the "Konishi Reference"). The Applicants believe that the grounds for rejection are moot in view of the above amendment to claim 40. Accordingly, the claims are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has again rejected claims 46, 48, 49, 51, and 52 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Konishi reference. The Applicants believe that the grounds for rejection also are moot in view of the above amendment to claim 40 from which the claims depend. Accordingly, claims 46, 48, 49, 51, and 52 are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

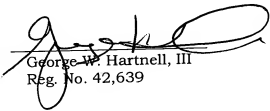
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The Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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